

2 March 1986

MA-TERRORISM
MEDFORD, MA

The United States and Soviet Union should work together to combat international terrorism, former Central Intelligence Agency head Adm. Stansfield Turner says.

Turner, speaking Saturday at a wide-ranging Tufts University symposium called "International Terrorism: An Inquiry into Contemporary Political Violence," said President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev should forge an anti-terrorism agreement at their next summit meeting.

Turner also called for increased cooperation between America and other foreign governments and stressed the need to understand the roots of terrorism. "Intelligence is very important in countering terrorism, but it is not and should not be considered to be our first line of defense," said Turner, director of the CIA from 1977 to 1981. He said combating terrorism requires a "better understanding of the whole milieu of terrorism," stressing the need for more information on "the countries from which they (terrorists) come and the reasons behind their causes." Turner spoke against the Reagan administration's support of anti-government rebels in Nicaragua, saying secret aid to the Contras was "a wrong application of a perfectly legitimate tool."

Jack Rosenthal, a New York Times editor, called for an attempt to "frame general guidelines as we are learning from each new case of terrorism," but said the media should not be asked to ignore the phenomenon.

"We have no choice but to report," Rosenthal said.

Timothy Russert, an NBC vice president, said the media should meet certain responsibilities in the coverage of terrorism.

He praised the media's refusal to release information on the location of the Delta Force -- an elite U.S. military unit formed for quick mobilization -- during the hijacking last year of a TWA flight from Athens International Airport, and lauded the media's decision not to release information on the security clearances of several hostages aboard the plane.

Russert, who recently revised NBC's guidelines for coverage of terrorist activity, said it is only "a vocal minority who don't think we do a sound job" of covering terrorism.